

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented) A safety assembly for a prefilled syringe for injecting liquid, the syringe comprising a tubular body forming a reservoir for the liquid, carrying a needle for injecting the liquid, and having a plunger mounted in the body to be movable between a ready position and an end-of-injection position, the body of the syringe having a proximal end provided with a flange, the assembly further comprising:

a tubular sheath in which the body of the syringe is designed to be housed in axially displaceable manner between an active position in which the needle projects through a distal end of the sheath and a protection position in which the needle is retracted inside the sheath;

resilient return means for urging the body towards its protection position; locking means for preventing the body from moving relative to the sheath in the active position by opposing the resilient force of the return means;

release means for releasing said locking means when the plunger is in its end-of-injection position;

the locking means comprising two diametrically opposite lugs formed in a wall of the tubular sheath, each lug having a free end provided with a retractable catch;

a cap mounted to slide axially on the sheath between two positions and having a proximal end with a hole for receiving the plunger;

snap-fastening means comprising an internal catch for securing the flange of the tubular body, so that due to retraction of the retractable catches, the cap is moved by resilient return means; and

two complementary shoulders acting as abutments, one on the cap, the other one on the tubular sheath, to limit the stroke of the cap once the locking means have been released, in opposition to the resilient force of the return means.

15. (Previously Presented) The assembly according to claim 14, wherein the sheath carries external retention means for being held by the fingers of a user to inject the liquid by moving a drive end of the plunger axially towards the retention means.

16. (Previously Presented) The assembly according to claim 15, wherein the retention means of the sheath comprise two substantially diametrically opposite fins or lugs.

17. (Previously Presented) The assembly according to claim 15, wherein the retention means comprise a shoulder formed on the outside surface of the sheath.

18. (Previously Presented) The assembly according to claim 14, wherein the means for resiliently urging the body of the syringe into the protection position comprise a thrust spring designed to bear against an internal bearing shoulder formed in the sheath.

19. (Previously Presented) The assembly according to claim 14, wherein the sheath and the cap are generally in the form of bodies of revolution and have complementary means for preventing relative rotation between each other.

20. (Previously Presented) The assembly according to claim 19, wherein the complementary means for preventing relative rotation of the sheath and the cap comprise at least one longitudinal groove formed in the cap and co-operating with a corresponding finger secured to the sheath.

21. (Previously Presented) The assembly according to claim 19, wherein the complementary means for preventing relative rotation of the sheath and the cap comprise at least one axial slot formed in the cap and co-operating with a fin.

22. (Previously Presented) The safety assembly according to claim 14 further comprising an injection device comprising a prefilled syringe for injecting liquid, the

syringe comprising a tubular body forming a reservoir for the liquid, carrying a needle for injecting the liquid, and having a plunger mounted in the body to be movable between a ready position and an end-of-injection position.

23. (Previously Presented) The safety assembly according to claim 15 further comprising an injection device comprising a prefilled syringe for injecting liquid, the syringe comprising a tubular body forming a reservoir for the liquid, carrying a needle for injecting the liquid, and having a plunger mounted in the body to be movable between a ready position and an end-of-injection position.

24. (Previously Presented) The safety assembly according to claim 16 further comprising an injection device comprising a prefilled syringe for injecting liquid, the syringe comprising a tubular body forming a reservoir for the liquid, carrying a needle for injecting the liquid, and having a plunger mounted in the body to be movable between a ready position and an end-of-injection position.

25. (Currently Amended) The safety assembly according to claim 17 further comprising an injection device comprising a prefilled syringe for injecting liquid, the syringe comprising a tubular body forming a reservoir for the liquid, carrying a needle for injecting the liquid, and having a plunger mounted in the body to be movable between a ready position and an end-of-injection position.

26. (Currently Amended) The safety assembly according to claim 18 further comprising an injection device comprising a prefilled syringe for injecting liquid, the syringe comprising a tubular body forming a reservoir for the liquid, carrying a needle for injecting the liquid, and having a plunger mounted in the body to be movable between a ready position and an end-of-injection position.

27. (Currently Amended) The safety assembly according to claim 19 further comprising an injection device comprising a prefilled syringe for injecting

liquid, the syringe comprising a tubular body forming a reservoir for the liquid, carrying a needle for injecting the liquid, and having a plunger mounted in the body to be movable between a ready position and an end-of-injection position.

28. (Previously Presented) The safety assembly according to claim 20 further comprising an injection device comprising a prefilled syringe for injecting liquid, the syringe comprising a tubular body forming a reservoir for the liquid, carrying a needle for injecting the liquid, and having a plunger mounted in the body to be movable between a ready position and an end-of-injection position.

29. (Previously Presented) The safety assembly according to claim 21 further comprising an injection device comprising a prefilled syringe for injecting liquid, the syringe comprising a tubular body forming a reservoir for the liquid, carrying a needle for injecting the liquid, and having a plunger mounted in the body to be movable between a ready position and an end-of-injection position.

30. (Previously Presented) A safety assembly for a prefilled syringe for injecting liquid, the syringe comprising a tubular body forming a reservoir for the liquid, carrying a needle for injecting the liquid, and having a plunger mounted in the body to be movable between a ready position and an end-of-injection position, the body of the syringe having a proximal end provided with a flange, the assembly further comprising:

a tubular sheath in which the body of the syringe is designed to be housed in axially displaceable manner between an active position in which the needle projects through a distal end of the sheath and a protection position in which the needle is retracted inside the sheath;

resilient return means for urging the body towards its protection position;

locking means for preventing the body from moving relative to the sheath in the active position by opposing the resilient force of the return means, said locking means being released by release means when the plunger is in its end-of-injection position;

the locking means comprising two diametrically opposite lugs formed in a wall of the tubular sheath, each lug having a free end provided with a retractable catch;

a cap mounted to slide axially on the sheath between two positions and having a proximal end with a hole for receiving the plunger;

an internal catch for snap-fastening the flange of the tubular body to the cap, so that due to retraction of the retractable catches, the cap is moved by resilient return means; and

two complementary shoulders acting as abutments, one on the cap, the other one on the tubular sheath, to limit the stroke of the cap once the locking means have been released, in opposition to the resilient force of the return means;

wherein the sheath and the cap are generally in the form of bodies of revolution and have complementary means for preventing relative rotation between each other; and

wherein the complementary means for preventing relative rotation of the sheath and the cap comprise at least one longitudinal groove formed in the cap and co-operating with a corresponding finger secured to the sheath.

31. (Previously Presented) A safety assembly for a prefilled syringe for injecting liquid, the syringe comprising a tubular body forming a reservoir for the liquid, carrying a needle for injecting the liquid, and having a plunger mounted in the body to be movable between a ready position and an end-of-injection position, the body of the syringe having a proximal end provided with a flange, the assembly further comprising:

a tubular sheath in which the body of the syringe is designed to be housed in axially displaceable manner between an active position in which the needle projects through a distal end of the sheath and a protection position in which the needle is retracted inside the sheath;

resilient return means for urging the body towards its protection position;

locking means for preventing the body from moving relative to the sheath in the active position by opposing the resilient force of the return means, said locking means being released by release means when the plunger is in its end-of-injection position;

the locking means comprising two diametrically opposite lugs formed in a wall of the tubular sheath, each lug having a free end provided with a retractable catch;

a cap mounted to slide axially on the sheath between two positions and having a proximal end with a hole for receiving the plunger;

an internal catch for snap-fastening the flange of the tubular body to the cap, so that due to retraction of the retractable catches, the cap is moved by resilient return means; and

two complementary shoulders acting as abutments, one on the cap, the other one on the tubular sheath, to limit the stroke of the cap once the locking means have been released, in opposition to the resilient force of the return means;

wherein the sheath and the cap are generally in the form of bodies of revolution and have complementary means for preventing relative rotation between each other; and

wherein the complementary means for preventing relative rotation of the sheath and the cap comprise at least one axial slot formed in the cap and co-operating with a fin.

32. (Previously Presented) The safety assembly according to claim 30 further comprising an injection device comprising a prefilled syringe for injecting liquid, the syringe comprising a tubular body forming a reservoir for the liquid, carrying a needle for injecting the liquid, and having a plunger mounted in the body to be movable between a ready position and an end-of-injection position.

33. (Previously Presented) The safety assembly according to claim 31 further comprising an injection device comprising a prefilled syringe for injecting liquid, the syringe comprising a tubular body forming a reservoir for the liquid, carrying a needle for injecting the liquid, and having a plunger mounted in the body to be movable between a ready position and an end-of-injection position.

34. (Previously Presented) An assembly according to claim 14, wherein the release means comprises a ramp on the cap.